

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted responsive to the office action mailed April 18, 2011. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, claims 37-40 and 73 were rejected as anticipated by JP 57-151246 (hereafter JP '246). With respect to independent claim 37, this claim has been amended to specify that the external thread (22) does not axially overlap the straight-walled conical shape of bevelled portion (24). This feature is illustrated, for example, in figure 2 where threads begin at point 25, and thus the bevelled portion 24 does not have any threads on its surface, and therefore a straight-walled conical shape, also as recited in claim 37. Considering JP '246, the threads shown in figures 3 and 4 extend along the entire length of the bevelled portion as well. This structural difference is important, as the threads along the bevelled surface interfere with obtaining a good seal between the plug and the oil line or tank into which it is fitted. Thus, independent claim 37 has been amended to recite structure which is absent from JP '246 and all other art of record.

Independent claim 38 has been amended to recite the similar subject matter as independent claim 37, and thus independent claim 37 is likewise believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Dependent claims 39-46 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 37 or 38, and are believed to be allowable based upon this dependency, and further in their own right.

Dependent claim 73 has been amended to recite a further structural difference between the present embodiment of figure 2 and JP '246, namely that the radial extent of thread 22 in the present invention is between the minimum and maximum diameters of the bevelled portion. Claim 73 had recited that threads 22 extend radially beyond the point where bevelled portion 24 meets shank 36. The present amendment further recites that the threads 22 are radially inward from the point where the bevelled portion 24 meets top plate 12. Turning to JP '246, it is clear that the threads in question extend radially beyond the entire bevelled portion. Thus, this is an additional structural difference with respects to the prior art.

Finally, new dependent claim 74 has been added and recites the additional subject matter that blind hole 18 is substantially free of additional structures. It is noted that JP'246 shows a solenoid (3) in this portion of their disclosed device. This solenoid adds weight and additional complexity to the article, all of which is undesirable to a person skilled in the art and the environment to which the invention is directed. Based upon the foregoing, new claim 74 is believed to be allowable over the art of record.

An earnest and thorough effort has been made to address all issues raised in the office action. If, upon considering this response, the Examiner believes that issues remain which could

be addressed by an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss and resolve same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-0184 in the amount of \$26.00 for claims in excess of twenty. It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with this paper. If any such fee is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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